

Washington, DC - Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today voiced his concerns with the postponement of a government employment eligibility verification program, known as E-Verify. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently asked the federal government to again postpone the enforcement of these verification requirements for federal contractor hiring. The original effective date was January 15, 2009; the latest delay now changes the applicability date to May 21, 2009.

“E-Verify is a commonsense immigration enforcement measure that strengthens our legal workforce,” said Fortenberry. “With unemployment on the rise during these difficult times, we must combat any illicit demand for illegal labor by unscrupulous employers who exploit vulnerable persons and distort U.S. markets. Robust enforcement of our immigration laws is critical to both our national and economic security.”

E-Verify, an internet-based employee verification program, was established in 1996. Administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the program relies on data from the Social Security Administration to verify employment eligibility.

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